

Dear Clay,

3/26/98

In the past you have used the word I think ^{is} "rebuttal" as descriptive of what I'd written you and as before, I say this is the wrong word. Although on the subject of what I write you about now it is closer.

There are only a few ways in which I can say that there are some things for which I now cannot justify taking time. Please do try to understand this and not try to persuade me otherwise or, as in what I return, confront me with doing what you want done and I'd already told you I could not take time for. You kept most of those footnotes in after I said I could not take time for it. And now, with this newest Posner whoring, I have even less time because there is more for me to do that nobody else can or will do. I'm sure from my knowledge of the actual evidence in the King case that Posner's rewriting of history can be addressed by others but I am also confident that nobody else will take the time required.

It really was not important that I add a citation to the ^{fairies} and needles debates of the ^{past}, and you kept that in, to take one example, after I'd said I could not take time for it. There is much I'd have liked to do for which I did not have the time. Like sit down and reread the entire ms. once I'd finished with it. Another illustration that comes to mind, I included the Baltimore Sun story on the settlement of the Hickey case. There was no date on it because the person who sent me the clipping did not provide the date. You added that footnote for me to get and include the date. While that would have been nice to have, it is not possible for me now. And with the story verbatim it is not all that necessary. Nice, yes, of course, but not necessary. Especially not when compared with what ^{else} I could do with that time, that fraction of a day perhaps no more than that.

Wrono asked me to address the ^U Tomyan monstrosity, of 900 pages. I read it and marked it up for writing about it. I'd finished doing that with two of Epstein's books when I got the copy back from you so I'd laid Epstein aside. Meanwhile, I got the Escalante book. I've not yet cracked it but it follows with the Furiani. Wiley has published another Castro-did-it fiction I've not yet seen and as of this minute will not get'.

Before the Posner book appeared I had decided that I should, with the work I have done, address the King assassination again. Got two chapters in rough when I got the Hersh back from you.

There is more but I think this gives you a notion of how much there is for me to want to do, to try to do, while it is still possible. As it may not be if something happens to my wife, who has trouble getting out of a chair and requires a walker, or to me, and I think I have you a list of what I've been fortunate enough to survive. ^{And I'll be 84 on 4/8.}

What you have done is very valuable to me, very important, particularly at

this time of my life. You have done what I ^{would} not have been able to get done if you had not done it. I've been forced to leave the dirty and hard to read rough drafts of other books for the future and perhaps with what you have done with the Hersh I may be in a position to do something with it. Against the odds. But without what You've done I'd not have tried.

Over the years I've come to accept the fact that the time comes when we ^{must} compromise with what we'd like to do. I've lived with that for some time now. It is not by any means what I'd prefer but it was forced on me and I've been living and working with it.

As you will by now have seen, most of the Hersh corrections ^{are} eliminating the italics that, I am sure with the best of intentions, were added. ~~And~~ And as you will see on the enclosed, most of that was persisting in the footnotes with what I said I now just can't take time for. Had said before you kept it in or added to it.

As I've asked before, when there is something like that, please indicate it on the copy you are working with, ^{either} whether the rough draft or corrections in what has been retyped. I staple those chapters together when I get them so I can handle them when I can not now use a desk and so that they will not come apart as I turn the pages. I do not reread them but any color will catch my eye and ~~for~~ that I do pay attention to, do read, and from time to time make the corrections suggested. I am only too aware that in the ^{past} ~~past~~ in which I work errors are more likely to creep in. So, please do continue with suggestions but please also do not do that on what you've retyped. The corrections on the enclosed did not take all that time but they did take time and they were also an annoyance. They did take time, the way at my age and in the state of my health I have to think that I'll not be able to use for something else.

I'm not at all sure that I caught all the renumbering the footnotes require in Chapters 11 and 12 but I just pooped out before I'd finished, just before, and had to suspend. I finished early this morning before I left for my supermarket walking at about 3:50 a.m. I also did some shopping for Lil then while I got my walking in behind the cart, which gives me more stability. And ^{fore} ~~toss~~ my skin reaching into a freezer compartment, by brushing against the door. It is real, Clay, I hemorrhage on contact and my skin, upper layer only, peels back on the slightest contact. From the medicines that keep me alive.

So, please make all indications of corrections or suggestions with the highlighter and not on what you've retyped. Please also continue to make them, but let me decide whether they'll take more time than I can now justify.

I do, very much, appreciate what you have done and say you will continue to do, and I hope we can continue to do it for a long time. Many thanks and best wishes,

Harold